

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

The Examiner maintains there are two groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. These groups have been identified as follows:

- Group I:** Claim 1, drawn to a method of joining a coupling element.
- Group II:** Claims 2-6, drawn to a tool for joining a coupling element.

Applicant elects the claims of Group I for purposes of examination and has cancelled claims 2-6 of Group II.

Accordingly, Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application for the non-elected, cancelled claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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